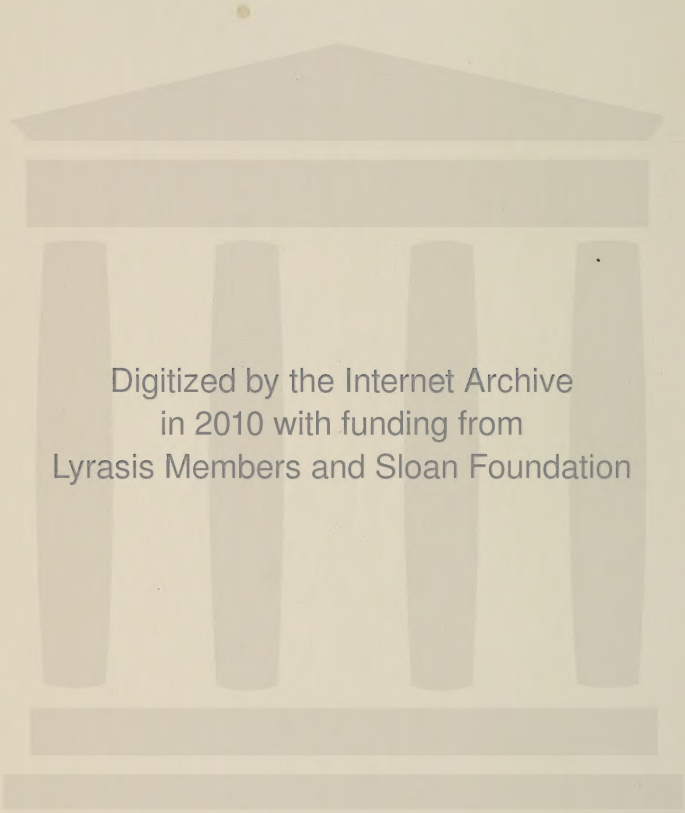
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Md. General assembly.

MESSAGE

OF

GOVERNOR FRANK BROWN

TO THE

Legislature of Maryland.

1896.

BALTIMORE:
KING BROTHERS, STATE PRINTERS.

1896.

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MESSAGE.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
ANNAPOLIS, January 1st, 1896.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

In obedience to the Constitution of the State you have assembled to shape by enactment or repeal of statutory law the material fortunes of the people, and to make provision for the wants and the government of a great commonwealth.

The welfare of the people, so far as it is affected by legislation, rests with you.

Careful and considerate attention to the drafting and passing of new laws, and the repeal of obnoxious ones now in existence, will redound to the future prosperity of the people.

Upon the other hand, *extreme, hasty and unguarded action* will most likely work great detriment to the material development of the commonwealth.

STATE INSTITUTIONS.

The boards of management of the various State institutions will present to you their annual reports of their workings, and upon examination I feel sure that you will note what, in your judgment, is needed to increase their efficiency.

Your attention is called to my message to the General Assembly of 1894, where you will find a detailed description of the capacity and workings of each of the institutions, and my recommendations in connection therewith.

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD.

Your attention is especially called to the report of the Adjutant-General of the State on the Maryland National Guard and the general efficiency of this department of your government.

The necessity of maintaining a well organized National Guard is no longer a question.

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The exercise of reasonable liberality in the appropriation for its support would, I am sure, meet the approval of your constituency.

The sudden call and the prompt response of this Guard in the summer of 1894 to preserve the peace in a section of this State involved a draft upon the annual appropriation for the support of this department, which you will properly be called upon to reimburse.

DUTY OF THE EXECUTIVE.

It becomes my duty to report to you the general condition of the State and to make such recommendations as are expedient.

Following all precedents in Maryland the retiring Executive formulates a policy to be adopted or rejected by his successor in office and the General Assemby associated with him, when in most of the States the Governor-elect proclaims his policy upon accepting the honor conferred on him by the people.

The Executive and the General Assembly who are fresh from the people frequently secure their elections by their endorsement of party platforms embodying the policy which should shape their actions if honored by the suffrages of the people.

These conditions apply specifically to the incoming Executive and to a very large majority of the General Assembly.

I, therefore, deem it unwise and a want of courtesy to my successor in office to embarrass his administration in the least by submitting my views on the great public questions that naturally present themselves, and for the further reason that my views on most of the important issues that are likely to be presented to your honorable body have already been given in former messages and public declarations.

I, therefore, confine myself in this message to the condition of the State treasury, with a few remarks as to such legislation to which your attention would naturally be attracted when considering the future resources and revenue of the State, the development of its institutions, and the safety and happiness of the people.

TREASURY.

By a careful examination of the condensed statement showing the receipts and disbursements of the State treasury in connection with the annual report of the Comptroller, it will be seen that reasonable economy has been exercised in public expenditures.

Due regard has been paid to the sinking funds by safe and secure investments.

Our resources have been carefully watched and our credit fully maintained.

SUGGESTIONS.

Pressing needs should be the measure of every appropriation.

Rigid economy should be practiced in every branch of the State government.

Waste and extravagance should be prevented in all public institutions.

Boards of Trustees, Superintendents and others in authority should examine with the closest scrutiny every outlay and proposed expenditure.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.

You, of course, know of the many General Acts of Assembly passed at the session of 1894. Important among these were two bills making provision for the payment of certain obligations against the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Neither of these measures secured my signature for reasons given at length at that time.

Having announced, in withholding my signature, that I proposed to have these claims audited prior to the meeting of the present General Assembly, in order that each individual claim might be stated, giving the name of the claimant and the amount of the indebtedness, so as to give the General Assembly all the facts in connection with these outstanding obligations, and *enable it to act intelligently upon the validity of each and every claim when making an appropriation from the State treasury,* I secured the services of Mr. C. A. Little, State's Attorney for Washington county, who has carefully collected and audited these accounts, as above stated, in all their detail, showing that the obligations in total, so far as

the same could be secured, amount to $176,324.65, exclusive of whatever interest may be claimed or allowed, all of which is more particularly stated in manuscript on file in the Executive Chamber, and which will be delivered to your honorable body in a subsequent message. Many of the certificates in connection with these claims are in the hands of Mr. Little, and any further information needed in connection with the same can be obtained by summoning him before the committee having this matter in charge.

Within the past year the Board of Public Works offered for sale the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. There were two bids submitted, one of $310,000, and the other of $526,000 upon certain conditions. These bids were rejected and the following resolutions adopted by the Board, to wit:

"EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,

"ANNAPOLIS, December 23, 1895.

"Whereas, The Board of Public Works of Maryland, acting under authority given it under Chapter 310 of the Acts of 1892, did advertise for sale the interest of the State of Maryland in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and invited sealed proposals to be presented by noon on Wednesday, October 9th, 1895; and

"Whereas, There was then and is now pending in the Court of Appeals of Maryland litigation involving questions of law and affecting the State's interest in said canal; and

"Whereas, Owing to the pending litigation and for other good and valid reasons, the sealed proposals presented were rejected at a special meeting of the Board, held Wednesday, November 20th, 1895, and further proposals were invited to be presented to said Board on or before this date, with the expectation of a conclusion being reached in the pending litigation above referred to, and said litigation not having been determined by the Court of Appeals; now, therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That any bids or proposals that may be tendered to the Board be not opened, but that they be returned to the parties making them; and be it further

"*Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Board it would be injudicious and detrimental to the best interests of the State to make sale of this property in any manner except by public auction to the highest bidder."

To which I wish to add that I am of opinion that the State's interest would be best subserved by the *prompt disposal of its interest in this property*, and I heartily endorse the action of the Board of Public Works in recommending that the same be disposed of at *public auction to the highest bidder, as soon as the State's interests are sufficiently defined as to enable persons or corporations to bid intelligently upon the property*, and from the proceeds of this sale the General Assembly can, in its judgment, liquidate the outstanding obligations above referred to.

LEGISLATION.

Your attention is respectfully called to important subjects upon which legislation is needed (or demanded) in the best interest of the State and her people:

A law providing for the revaluation and assessment of the taxable property within the State.

An adjustment of the State finances sufficiently to meet the expenditure which would be involved in giving to the children of the State free books, in compliance with the public demand so recently expressed.

Provision that will make the oyster industry of the State produce sufficient revenue to be self-sustaining.

Provision for the enlargement of the Maryland Penitentiary now in process.

Provision for the enlargement of the Maryland House of Correction, so as to separate the sexes, and to erect workshops of sufficient size to give employment to all the inmates.

Provision for the enlargement of the Institution for the Feeble-Minded.

Provision for the enlargement and additions to the Maryland Agricultural College which is now one of the most successful and progressive institutions in the State.

Provision for the improvement of the public roads of the State, thereby assisting in the development of our agricultural interests.

Provision for better employment of tramps and vagrants, by using this class of people in developing the different sections of the State and for public road improvement.

Provision allowing fees to be charged in the Executive office for copies of papers, charters, etc., so as to make the office self-sustaining.

An advisory board of pardons.

A law providing for and defining from what fund requisitions for fugitives from other States and extraditions should be paid.

Provision for the execution of criminals under death sentence, at a point in the State, surrounded by proper safeguards, so as to prevent escapes and lynchings, and to reduce the expenses attending the custody and execution of these criminals.

STATE FINANCES.

The report of the Comptroller for the fiscal year ended September 30th, 1894, shows that there was a balance in the treasury on that date of.....	$ 550,074 47
The report of the Comptroller for the fiscal year ended September 30th, 1895, shows that the total receipts into the treasury during the year were.....	2,609,244 09
Making a total amount available in the treasury during the year 1895 of.....	$3,159,318 56
The report of the Comptroller for the fiscal year ended September 30th, 1895, shows the total disbursements to be...	2,454,750 37
Leaving a balance in the treasury on September 30th, 1895, of.....	704,568 19

SINKING FUNDS.

There has been purchased during my term for the various sinking funds:		
For General Sinking Fund..	$ 227,745	83
For Defence Redemption Loan.....	1,285,587	50
For Exchange Loan of 1889.	99,782	62
For Exchange Loan of 1886.	10,000	00
Making a total of.....	$1,623,115	95

SCHOOLS.

During the fiscal year ended September 30th, 1895, there has been disbursed for public schools (including the academic fund).....	$ 699,717	63

PRISONS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

During the fiscal years 1894 and 1895, there has been distributed to the State prisons and charitable institutions of the State, as per appropriations by past General Assemblies, the sum of.....	$ 603,548	89

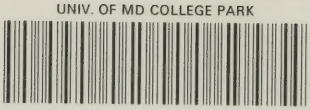
CONCLUSION.

I have, as briefly as possible, called to your attention the various matters of importance, the financial condition of the State and its institutions.

While I have not given to you the detailed information on these subjects which their importance would suggest, I refer them to you, relying upon your general knowledge, good judgment, discretion and conscientious desire to faithfully serve the people of this conservative commonwealth.

FRANK BROWN.

UNIV. OF MD COLLEGE PARK



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